THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There is no law that provides for registration of Yoga therapy certificate holders as medical practitioners.

(c) and (d) All registered practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and appropriately trained personnel are permitted to practice acupuncture.

(e) and (g) Since the Central Government have not recognized acupuncture as an independent System of Medicine, the question of legally recognized institutes offering courses in acupuncture does not arise.

Practising Medicine without qualification

1099. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons who do not have prescribed qualifications and experience are practicing medicine and performing surgery illegally;

(b) whether some instances have come to the notice of Government recently; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon;

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The Government do not have specific information in this regard. However, registration with the concerned Councils can be secured only by such practitioners who possess the requisite qualifications. According to provisions in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970, and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, no unregistered medical practitioner can practice medicine. Any person who acts in contravention of the provisions can be punished with imprisonment and fine under the respective Acts.

Cure of AIDS by Siddha Medicine

1100. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that research papers have been submitted to his Ministry about the possible cure for the dreaded disease AIDS, by the Siddha medicine;